Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 SAM-01 /150 W ----- 054901

R 090835Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 541

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

USMISSION USUN

USINT ALGIERS

CONFIDENTIAL LUSAKA 1640

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, ZA

SUBJ: MPLA CONGRESS

REF: LUSAKA 1532 AND 1580 (NOTAL)

1. MPLA CONGRESS NOW EXPECTED OPEN TODAY AUGUST 9 "NEAR LUSAKA." TIMES OF ZAMBIAN AUGUST 8 CONFIRMED BREAKDOWN OF 400 DELEGATES EARLIER OUTLINED TO AMBASSADOR BY FOREIGN MINISTER MWAANGA: NETO FACTION 165, CHIPENDA 165, BRAZZABILLE INTELLECTUALS 70. PAPER REPORTS ZAMBIAN OBSERVERS AT CONGRESS TO BE PRIME MINISTER CHONA, MIN STATE FOR DEFENSE MAJOR GENERAL CHINKULI, AND FOREIGN MINISTER MWAANGA. (LATTER, HOWEVER, DEPARTS FOR UK AND US EVENING AUGUST 9.) OBSERVERS REPORTEDLY ALSO EXPECTED FROM ALGERIA (CHAIRMAN OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT), SOMALIA (OAU CHAIRMAN), ZAIRE, CONGO, TANZANIA.

2. TIMES PRESUMES NETO WILL BE PRINCIPLE CONTESTANT CONFIDENTIAL

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AGAINST CHIPENDA FOR MPLA PRESIDENCY AT CONGRESS.

PINTO DE ANDRADE ALSO SAID TO BE CANDIDATE.

- 3. TIMES DEVOTES MOST OF REPORT TO "NETO MYSTERY." ACCORDING PAPER, NETO ACTUALLY ANNOUNCED RESIGNATION AS MPLA PRESIDENT AT SECRET MEETING WITH ZAMBIAN OFFICIALS BEFORE BUKAVU MEETING. DUE HIS SUBSEQUENT UNPREDICTABLE BEHAVIOUR, HOWEVER, "ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT SOURCES" NO LONGER TAKE RESIGNATION ANNOUNCEMENT SERIOUSLY AND IN ANY EVENT IT "HARDLY LIKELY" NETO WOULD BE PREPARED LET SOMEONE ELSE FINISH TASK OF MOVEMENT AGAINST PORTUGUESE HE SO INSTRUMENTAL IN STARTING. TIMES ALSO NOTES HE APPARENTLY HELD IN HIGHER ESTEEM BY ANGOLANS THAN ANY OTHER NATIONALIST LEADER.
- 4. PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR CHONA, IN DISCUSSION WITH CHARGE AUGUST 8 (SEPTEL), WOULD NOT BE DRAWN OUT ON NETO EXCEPT TO SAY, AS OF LAST WEEK WHEN HE ON FLIGHT TO DAR WITH NETO, RESIGNATION WAS STILL IN EFFECT BUT PERHAPS VERY WARM RECEPTION BY SUPPORTERS UPON ARRIVAL DAR CAUSED HIM TO RETRACT.

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Message Attributes

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